**Study Guide – Part II**

1. **Osama bin Laden quickly emerged as the leading suspect in the planning of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. What are bin Laden’s complaints against the United States?**
2. Osama bin Laden expressed anger about the presence of American troops in Arabia, the sacred lands of Islam.
3. Bin Laden also objected to U.S. support of Israel, and Israel’s presence in Islam’s holy lands, as well as to the death of Muslims at the hands of Israel.
4. He also strongly opposed U.S. policy concerning sanctions on Iraq in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War.
5. Bin Laden believes that U.S. actions literally amount to a declaration of war by the United States on Allah and Muslims.
6. **Give three reasons why many religious scholars say it is not correct to identify the religion of Islam as violent and intolerant.**
7. Most interpretations of Islamic tradition note history of tolerance and peace.
8. Islam is a religion that values family and tolerance.
9. Throughout much of history, Muslims have lived peacefully with followers of other religions.

1. **Why were most Americans confused by bin Laden’s accusation that the U.S. had declared war on Islam?**

Most Americans were confused by bin Laden’s accusation that the U.S. had declared war on Islam because Americans separate the political and religious spheres/areas.

1. **Political Islam seeks to give one interpretation to all Islamic doctrine. Why are followers of this movement upset with many governments in the Middle East?**

Followers of the Political Islam movement are upset with many governments in the Middle East because of corruption, mismanagement, and reliance on foreign aid.

1. **Why does the U.S. government fear political Islam, even when it doesn’t involve terrorism?**

The U.S. government fears political Islam because it can be a threat to the stability of Middle Eastern countries.

1. **Give two reasons why the U.S. is active in the Middle East.**
2. U.S. wants to prevent hostile forces from gaining control of the Middle East’s oil resources.
3. The U.S. has begun an effort to bring democracy to Iraq with the hope that it might spark reform and stability in a region critical to the American economy and security.
4. **“While concentrating on security issues, U.S. s policymakers have paid much less attention to promoting democracy and human rights in the Middle East.” Give two examples from the readings to support this statement.**
5. U.S. policymakers have concentrated on access to Middle East oil.
6. U.S. policymakers have also focused on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.
7. **Why did the United States go to war with Iraq in 1991?**

The U.S. went to war with Iraq in 1991 because Iraq (under Saddam Hussein) had invaded the

neighboring country of Kuwait, and the U.S. was afraid that Iraq might try to take the rich oil fields of Saudi Arabia.

1. **What reasons did President Bush provide the UN for the 2003 war with Iraq?**
2. One reason was that Iraq was a sponsor of terrorism.
3. Another reason was the Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.
4. **Why does the U.S. believe Iran poses a security threat to the U.S.?**

The United States believes that Iran has a well-established program to develop nuclear weapons.